

Name this Newsletter contest!

Email us your idea for the best
name: titleV_lec@mcny.edu
We'll select one winner who'll
receive a free 512 MB flash drive!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TITLE V LEARNING ENHANCEMENT CENTER

MCNY Welcomes New LEC Director!

LEC Hours and Contact:

- Open Monday-Saturday
- 212-343-1234 x2438 General
x2418 Writing
x2416 Math
- titleV_lec@mcny.edu

Call or email for an appointment today!



Sandra Ariza, Admin. Assistant



Our new Writing Specialist,
Lauren Cardon

Student Quote of the month:

*"I am sure that my G.P.A.
has gone up by at least a
point thanks to the help I
have received by my tutors!
Thank you!"*

I am pleased to announce the appointment of William F. Bird-Forteza as Director of the Title V Project. Bill holds an Ed. M. from Harvard University and a BA in Psychology from Boston University. He has extensive experience in academic administration having served as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Interim Provost /VPAA /Dean of Faculty at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College. In addition, he was Director of both the Bilingual Teacher Education Program and Director of Special Education Programs at SUNY at Old Westbury. Bill brings to us his grant writing experience and grant program management having served as Director for a Title VII Grant for Elementary Bilingual/ Multicultural Teacher Education Program.

Provost Lerman's message to MCNY

Message from the Director

After a hiatus of three post retirement years, I am excited and honored to join MCNY as Director of the Title V Learning Enhancement Center. While I cannot take credit for the accomplishments of the LEC for the first year of implementation, I do wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of my predecessor, Dr. Nancy Velázquez-Torres, the present LEC staff and Advisory Board, MCNY Faculty, Deans, Provost, and President for their efforts and support toward the creation of



William Bird-Forteza, Title V LEC Director

MCNY's Learning Enhancement Center.

I look forward to renewed efforts to help the LEC evolve and mature as it tries to meet the diverse needs of our students and faculty and further strengthen MCNY's institutional capacity to support and enhance the learning/teaching process.

Stay posted, and you will witness how the LEC will continue to support the academic initiatives of the College and the needs of our students. We will continue to unite forces with other resources on campus to optimize access for all MCNY students and faculty. Academic year 2006-2007 will witness continued significant progress in academic student support services.

Please come visit us and bring your suggestions!

William Bird-Forteza, Title V LEC Director



Student Lenny Durio and Lisa Bauer,
Math Specialist

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES BY LENNY DURIO

Given the intensity of the work generated by the accelerated program at MCNY, I knew that I would need to be well-prepared in order to excel. Having always had problems with math and an appreciation for writing, I thought it wise

to secure mentors in order to receive additional instruction. I entered the LEC not knowing what to expect, and I was surprised to learn how helpful LEC staff could be. Working with percentages, probabilities, and statistics, Lisa has gone a long way

to help bring me up to speed with math. Desiree has helped me add strength and clarity to my ability to communicate through the written word. The LEC is not just about tutors, it's about people who care and people who make great friends.

TITLE V TECH TIPS: BLACKBOARD AND PLATO

BY CLARK SHAH-NELSON

MCNY is the proud parent of a brand new Blackboard online course management server! Thanks to funding from a Title V federal grant and a collaborative effort between the Learning Enhancement Center, the Library and Academic Computing Department, Management Information Systems and the Online Learning Department, MCNY has moved all its online courses to its own in-house server and offers all MCNY

faculty unlimited online "shells" for their courses.

What's that, you say? "Shells"? Blackboard is software that allows courses to be conducted online. Blackboard can also supplement face-to-face classes with online communication tools such as discussion, file downloads, digital drop-boxes and gradebooks. Instructors may choose from a wide array of tools to enhance communica-

tion and learning. Students get the added benefit of being able to work on portions of their class at home or in off-hours as well as contact their professor and/or other students. Instructors: want more info? Email: blackboard@mcny.edu

Additionally, the LEC continues to use and support PlatoWeb, with over 140 self-paced computer learning modules on writing. Everything from grammar to ad-

vanced sentence structure can be practiced with Plato. The modules are mastery-based, so the student can only move on once the content is mastered.

Instructors and students may contact the LEC for an introductory practice session for the PlatoWeb modules.



Clark Shah-Nelson,
Educational Technologist

MAKING SENTENCES WORK IN YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION

BY DESIREE EVANS

A student enters the Learning Enhancement Center and asks, "Is there someone here who can read over my paper? I want to get a good grade but I need someone to help me with my sentences." As a Writing Specialist, I welcome this request for assistance. It allows me to share various tools for writing great sentences.

While many students come for help with essay assignments, a majority of the students come for tutoring assistance with their Constructive Action docu-



Desiree Evans, Writing Specialist

ments. Students are responsible for the CA topic, but the LEC Writing Specialists can help them create sentences that clarify the topic. Excess words, run-ons, and lack of punctuation, especially commas, are com-

mon sentence errors I observe when reviewing a Constructive Action document. To recognize and correct each grammar error, I first determine the student's knowledge of sentences. What is a sentence?" I ask. If a student is unable to identify the main parts of a sentence, I explain how sentences are created. Although students initially rely on the Writing Specialist to teach sentence structure rules, I also encourage independent learning. This may come in the form of different sentence activities.

By practicing with sentences through various techniques, he or she can acknowledge sentence errors more easily. Remember, once your sentences are clear, the ideas in your Constructive Action will shine!

If you have more questions about the writing process, please visit the Learning Enhancement Center on the 12th Floor in Room V. Look for answers to the questions in future issues of the LEC Newsletter.



Barrington Scott, Math Specialist

Before anyone tackles a mathematics problem, he or she must understand the language of mathematics. The language consists of rules and definitions. People take these rules and definitions into consideration the moment they are about to tackle a math problem. For example one term that is frequently used is percent.

Percent means out of 100 (total of every thing) or a fractional part of 100 (total of every thing).

If someone encounters a percent problem, he or she will use the definition of percent and rules of fractions to solve the problem. From all of us at Math Corner, we would like the young and old to challenge their minds at a percent problem.

Math Challenge!

A cake consists of 528lbs of flour; 160lbs of sugar; 88lbs of butter and 24lbs of raisin. What percent of the cake is sugar?

*Answer will be revealed in the next issue

By Barrington Scott